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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A metal halide lamp, comprising:
- a ceramic arc tube that is composed of a main body and two narrow tube parts provided at respective ends of the main body;
- 5 a pair of electrodes provided inside the main body;
- two feeders, each being connected at one end thereof to a different one of the electrodes inside the main body, and extending through a different one of the narrow tube parts, so as to be external to the arc tube at another end;
- a starting wire that is connected to one of the feeders, and that is in a vicinity of or
- 10 contacts an outer surface of the arc tube; and
- a current-limiting unit that is on a current path of the starting wire, and limits current on the current path during an abnormal discharge between one of the electrodes and the starter wire during operation of the lamp.
2. (Cancelled)
- 15 3. (Previously Presented) The metal halide lamp of Claim 1, wherein the current-limiting unit is a resistor.
4. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 3, wherein a resistance value of the resistor is in a range of 1 k $\Omega$  to 1 M $\Omega$ , inclusive.

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5. (Previously Presented) The metal halide lamp of Claim 4, having a power rating in a range of 50W to 400W, inclusive,

wherein two terminals that each connect to a power supply path are provided at two different positions on the resistor, a distance between the terminals being at least 4.5 mm.

5 6. (Previously Presented) The metal halide lamp of Claim 5, wherein

the arc tube is accommodated in an outer tube,

a sleeve that encloses at least the main body is provided between the outer tube and the arc tube,

a first supporting part and a second supporting part are provided at respective  
10 ends of the sleeve in order to hold the sleeve, and

the resistor is provided in the outer tube, in a space that is outside a space between the first supporting part and second supporting part.

7. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 6, wherein

the first supporting part is joined to the feeder to which the starting wire is  
15 connected, and has an aperture through which the starting wire passes, and

a minimum distance between the first supporting part and a part of the starting wire that passes through the aperture is at least 4.5 mm.

8. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 7, wherein

one end of the starting wire is wound around a part of the arc tube that is resistant  
20 to deformation if the arc tube breaks.

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9. (Previously Presented) The metal halide lamp Claim 1, wherein  
the current-limiting unit is a capacitor.
10. (Currently Amended) A metal halide lamp comprising:  
a ceramic arc tube that is composed of a main body and two narrow tube parts  
5 provided at respective ends of the main body;  
a pair of electrodes provided inside the main body;  
two feeders, each being connected at one end thereof to a different one of the  
electrodes inside the main body, and extending through a different one of the narrow tube parts,  
so as to be external to the arc tube at another end;  
10 a starting wire that is connected to one of the feeders, and that is in a vicinity of or  
contacts an outer surface of the arc tube; and  
a ~~circuit-breaking element~~ current-limiting unit, that is on a current path of the  
starting wire, and cuts current to the starting wire within a predetermined amount of time of an  
occurrence of an outer tube discharge between the starting wire and one of the pair of electrodes  
15 during a post-start up operation of the lamp.
11. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 10, wherein  
the predetermined amount of time is 10 seconds.
12. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 10, wherein  
the predetermined amount of time is 1 second.

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13. (Currently Amended) The metal halide lamp of Claim 12, wherein  
the ~~circuit-breaking element~~ current-limiting unit is a fuse whose current capacity  
is equal to or less than a value of current required for ordinary operation of the metal halide  
lamp.

5 14. (Currently Amended) The metal halide lamp of Claim 13, wherein  
two terminals that connect to a power supply path are provided at two different  
positions on the ~~circuit-breaking element~~ current-limiting unit, a distance between the terminals  
being at least 4.5 mm.

15. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 14, wherein the fuse is the starting  
10 wire.

16. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 15, wherein  
when abnormal discharge occurs, the starting wire melts, within the  
predetermined amount of time, to an extent that a discharge distance is insufficient for abnormal  
discharge to continue.

15 17. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 16, wherein  
the starting wire is made of a metal selected from the group consisting of  
molybdenum, tungsten, niobium, and iron, or of an alloy that contains a metal selected from the  
group.

18. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 17, wherein  
20 the starting wire is a molybdenum wire that has a diameter of 0.2 mm or less.

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19. (Currently Amended) The metal halide lamp of Claim 18, wherein  
the arc tube is accommodated in an outer tube,  
a sleeve that encloses at least the main body is provided between the outer tube  
and the arc tube,  
5 a first supporting part and a second supporting part are provided at respective  
ends of the sleeve in order to hold the sleeve, and  
the ~~circuit breaking element~~ current-limiting unit is provided in the outer tube, in  
a space that is outside a space between the first supporting part and second supporting part.
20. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 19, wherein  
10 the first supporting part is joined to the feeder to which the starting wire is  
connected, and has an aperture through which the starting wire passes, and  
a minimum distance between the first supporting part and a part of the starting  
wire that passes through the aperture is at least 4.5 mm.
21. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 19, wherein  
15 one end of the starting wire is wound around a part of the arc tube that is resistant  
to deformation if the arc tube breaks.
22. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 2, further comprising:  
a sleeve that encloses the arc tube; and  
a supporting part that supports the sleeve at at least one end of the sleeve, and is  
20 conductive,  
wherein the starting wire passes through the supporting part in a state of  
insulation from the supporting part.

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23. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 22, wherein  
the starting wire passes through insulation provided on the supporting part, the  
insulation lying between the starting wire and the supporting part.

24. (Original) The metal halide lamp of Claim 23, wherein  
5 a slant distance between the starting wire and one of the electrodes that is not the  
electrode connected to the starting wire via the one of the feeders, is shorter than a distance  
between the electrodes.

25-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A metal halide lamp, comprising:  
10 an arc tube including a main body;  
a pair of electrodes provided inside the main body;  
two feeders, each being connected, at a respective end of the main body to be  
external to the arc tube;  
a starting wire that is connected to one of the feeders, and that is in a vicinity of or  
15 contacts an outer surface of the arc tube;  
a current-limiting unit that is on a current path of the starting wire, and limits  
current on the current path;  
a sleeve that encloses the arc tube; and  
a supporting part that supports the sleeve at at least one end of the sleeve, and is  
20 conductive, wherein the starting wire passes through the supporting part in a state of insulation  
from the supporting part.

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30. (New) The metal halide lamp of Claim 29, wherein  
the starting wire passes through insulation provided on the supporting part, the  
insulation lying between the starting wire and the supporting part.

31. (New) The metal halide lamp of Claim 29, wherein  
5 a slant distance between the starting wire and one of the electrodes that is not the  
electrode connected to the starting wire via the one of the feeders, is shorter than a distance  
between the electrodes.

32. (New) A metal halide lamp, comprising:  
a ceramic arc tube that is composed of a main body and two narrow tube parts  
10 provided at respective ends of the main body;  
a pair of electrodes provided inside the main body;  
two feeders, each being connected at one end thereof to a different one of the  
electrodes inside the main body, and extending through a different one of the narrow tube parts,  
so as to be external to the arc tube at another end;  
15 a starting wire that is connected to one of the feeders, and that is in a vicinity of or  
contacts an outer surface of the arc tube; and  
an abnormal discharge current-limiting means for limiting a current carrying  
capacity of the starting wire, when the arc tube breaks, to a current value restricted within a  
range in which an operating start up voltage does not rise.

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